

**REMARKS:**

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101**

Claims 12 - 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claims 12 - 24 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,385,929 to Englehart. Claims 12 through 24 have been cancelled, thereby mooting the statutory double patenting rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

**REJECTIONS UNDER NON-STATUTORY DOUBLE PATENTING**

Claims 1-11 and 25 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1 – 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,385,929 to Englehart. Applicant has cancelled Claims 1 – 11 herein, thereby rendering moot the Examiner’s rejection of these claims under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Applicant has also filed herewith a terminal disclaimer of the present application in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.32(c). Accordingly, the Examiner’s rejection of Claim 25 under the doctrine of obvious-type double patenting is believed to be overcome.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 OVER SASAKI**

Claim 25 has been amended to provide similar first and second fastening members. Both the first and second fastening members are identified as having “a threaded axial recess at the first end, and an axially extending threaded region at the second end...” The amendment to add “an axially extending threaded region at the second end” to the “first fastening member” and “a threaded axial recess at the first end” of the “second fastening member” is made in accordance with Page 5, lines 28 through Page 6, lines 4 and Figures 2 and 4 as originally filed.

Sasaki does not teach first and second fastening members, each having "a threaded axial recess at the first end," and "an axially extending threaded region at the second end."

### **NEW CLAIMS**

New Claims 26 – 29 have been added to the subject application. Support for these claims is found in the specification as originally filed at Page 6, line 30 through Page 7.

### **CONCLUSION:**

In response to the Office Action dated July 11, 2002, Claims 1 – 24 have been cancelled, Claim 25 has been amended, new Claims 26 – 29 have been added to the subject application, and a Terminal Disclaimer has been filed herewith. At this point, applicant believes that the pending claims distinguish over the art cited and comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102, 103 and 112. As such, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

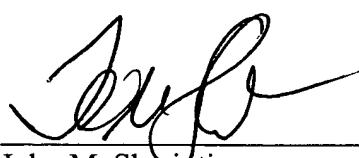
Respectfully submitted,

**BROUSE McDOWELL**

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Date

Telephone No.: (330) 535-5711  
Fax No.: (330) 253-8601

  
John M. Skeriotis  
Reg. No. 43,129  
500 First National Tower  
Akron, OH 44308

540727